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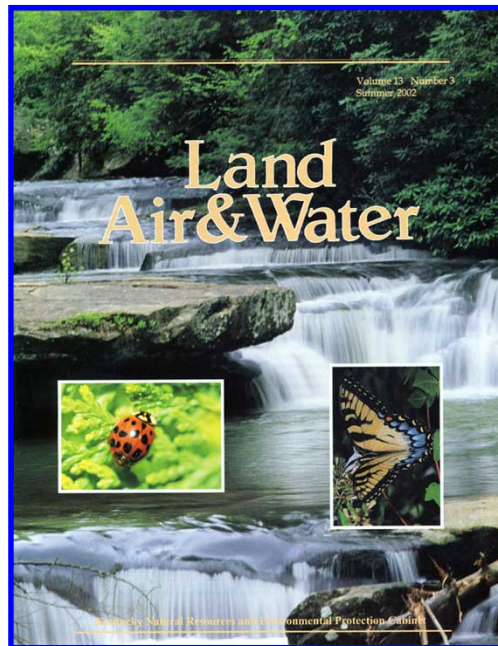
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## KY Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Land Air & Water magazine

Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3



**Cover of the Summer 2002 issue**

Read about the [cover photos](#).

*Land, Air & Water* is a quarterly publication focused on the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's work to preserve and protect Kentucky's land, air and water resources. Contact the editor, Cindy Schafer (e-mail [cynthia.schafer@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:cynthia.schafer@mail.state.ky.us)) to add your name to the mailing list or to change a current listing.

### Summer 2002 Issue

Click on the articles listed below:

[Legislators secure a cleaner future for Kentucky's environment](#)

[Environmental Awards to be presented this fall](#)

[State closes on Pine Mountain agreement](#)

[Geographic information and the NREPC](#)

## **Environmental Protection**

[New database will make cabinet permitting more consistent and accessible](#)

### **Air Quality**

[VET to come to an end in Jefferson County](#)

[Representative is there for small businesses](#)

[Opportunity to recognize air quality stewardship](#)

### **Waste**

[Waste oil furnace installed at two Transportation Cabinet locations](#)

[Three's company--Grant County becomes Kentucky's third certified clean county](#)

[Rake in some cash while piling up trash: Commonwealth Cleanup prizes awarded](#)

### **Water**

[Volunteers take "snapshot" of stream quality](#)

[Consumers now get reports about their drinking water](#)

## **Natural Resources**

[New nature plate to be offered](#)

### **Energy**

[Ceremony recognizes excellence in energy education](#)

### **Forestry**

[Arbor Day reminds us of the importance of trees in our lives](#)

[Wildland fires and arson summit planned](#)

### **Conservation**

[Teaming up with NASA for a view of the Commonwealth from space](#)

[Fayette County 4-H Environmental Club wins state competition](#)

[Students receive savings bonds for writing and art contests](#)

## **Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**

[Morehead company awarded reclamation contract](#)

[Stay Out--Stay Alive](#)

## **Environmental Quality Commission**

[The Environmental Quality Commission celebrates 30 years with online survey](#)

[Kentuckians honored at Earth Day ceremony](#)

[Click here to see back issues.](#)

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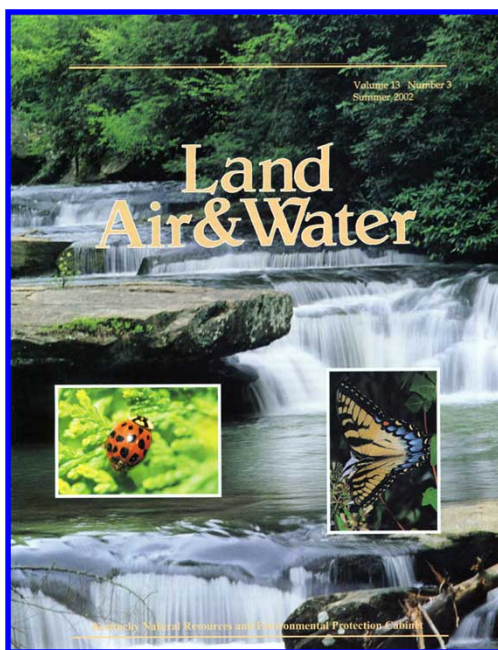
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**KY**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

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Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3

## On the Cover



Cover of the Summer 2002 issue

Click on it to see it enlarged.  
Photos by Gary Ritter, Frankfort

### Main photo:

These beautiful, cascading falls are located in Whitley County in the Cumberland Falls State Resort Park.

### Insets:

The butterfly is a female tiger swallowtail (*Pterourus glaucus*), and the ladybug is an Asian ladybeetle (*Harmonia axyridis*).

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## **KY**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Legislators secure a cleaner future for Kentucky's environment

Imagine the task of designing laws that both preserve and strengthen Kentucky's natural environment while accommodating future growth. That tall task was on the table during the 2002 General Assembly, and to the benefit of Kentuckians, legislators passed a variety of bills that will positively impact our state for years to come. In all, five pieces of legislation were part of Gov. Paul Patton's environmental agenda. Issues addressed included cell tower siting, power plants, smart growth, a comprehensive solid waste initiative and the Pine Mountain Linear State Park.

**Click on the titles below to read articles.**

[House Bill 174 -- Comprehensive Solid Waste Legislation](#)

[House Bill 244 -- Hazardous Waste Management Fund](#)

[House Bill 422 -- Waste Tire Amnesty Program](#)

[House Bill 257 -- Electric Utility Siting](#)

[House Bill 556 -- Pine Mountain Trail State Park Act](#)

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**Kentucky's state capitol**

See the Web site for the [Kentucky Legislative Research Commission](#) for more information on environmental legislation.

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## **KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Environmental awards to be presented this fall

by **Boyce Wells**, Department for Environmental Protection

For the past 26 years, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet has been recognizing businesses, individuals, industries, government programs and schools that make a positive difference in the care of our environment. The range of recipients is as varied as the programs and efforts that they have undertaken. They may have involved high-cost construction or a school educational program, but they have all been examples of efforts to improve or preserve the quality of the Commonwealth's environment and our quality of life.

Once again the cabinet is seeking those efforts that should be recognized for their impact on Kentucky. This fall the cabinet will present the 2002 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards. Nominations can be made in the following categories: Environmental Education, Soil Conservation, Forestry, Energy Conservation, Mining Reclamation—East Kentucky, Mining Reclamation—West Kentucky, Leadership in Pollution Prevention, Industrial Environmental Leadership, Community Environmental Leadership and Heritage Land Conservation.

Nominees must be individuals, groups, organizations or companies that reside in and/or have worked on a project undertaken in Kentucky. An award winner within the last five years is ineligible to participate. Visit the cabinet Web site for complete information on the award categories, nomination forms and eligibility at <http://www.kyenvironment.org/nrepc/Governor/govaward.htm> or contact [Boyce Wells](#) at (502) 564-2150.

Nominations should be received by the cabinet no later than Sept. 18, 2002.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**Karen Reagor, executive director of the KyNEED program, was presented the**



**Environmental Excellence Award for Energy Conservation  
by NREPC Secretary James Bickford last fall.**

**KyNEED is an energy education program  
that examines the economics, efficiency  
and environmental concerns associated with  
energy sources. Last year more than  
140 Kentucky teachers and 800 students  
participated in KyNEED workshops that  
instill indepth knowledge of energy  
and encourages them to apply this knowledge  
in their daily lives.**

Creative Services photo. Click on it to see it enlarged.

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## KY Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# State closes on Pine Mountain agreement

by Mark York, Office of the Secretary

In May, the final step was taken to protect an area near the Pine Mountain Settlement School in Harlan County from surface mining as the state compensated mineral owners for their rights to mine coal.

The Finance and Administration Cabinet issued checks totaling \$4.2 million to three coal companies and a family to purchase the mineral rights.

In 2001, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary James E. Bickford ordered 2,364 acres of land on Pine Mountain off limits to mining. The school had filed a petition in November 2000 asking that a 5,226-acre area in Harlan and Letcher counties be designated unsuitable for mining. In the petition, the school claimed that surface mining activities would affect historic and fragile lands and also impact renewable resource lands.

Bickford agreed that blasting from mining operations could damage the school's campus, part of which has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. "The school is truly special and deserving of protection, which is why surface mining in the area is being prohibited," he explained at the time of his order. The closing settles an appeal of Bickford's order that had been brought by the coal companies and the Wilder Family. Property owned by the Pine Mountain Settlement School adjoins land that could become a part of the Pine Mountain Trail State Park, a 120-mile-long linear state park that will run from Elkhorn City to Pineville. The park was part of the Patton Administration's 2002 legislative package, which included a number of environmental initiatives enacted by the General Assembly. (See [Legislators secure a cleaner future for Kentucky's environment.](#))

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet Deputy General Counsel Mike Haines (right) presents a check to Leo Hamilton (left) and Stephen Hamilton (center) of Nally and Hamilton Inc.** Cabinet photo. Click on photo to see it enlarged.

Checks were issued to Kentucky River Coal Corp. -- \$931,000, Blue Diamond Coal Co. -- \$1,230,000, Nally and Hamilton Inc. -- \$1,098,000, and the Wilder family -- \$941,000.

For more information, see the [Pine Mountain Settlement School Web site](#).

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## **KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Geographic information and the NREPC today

By Cecilia Mitchell, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

By now, everyone has heard of geographic information systems (GIS) and how properly collected, stored and retrieved data can be used to generate information for maps and provide statistics and trends. Maps and data are especially critical for government work with projects where various conflicting and overlaying data can cause confusion or create incorrect impressions at a substantially increased cost.

Advances in computer technology and the use of satellites to gather geographic data have vastly enhanced the accuracy of information available for use and interpretation. However, some practical techniques and methodologies have been slower to catch up with all the technological advances.

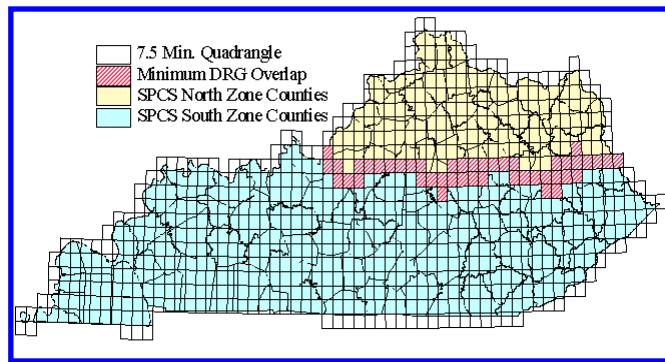
The Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Cabinet's (NREPC) Chief Information Officer John Penfield serves as chair of the Commonwealth's Geographic Information Advisory Council (GIAC). The mission of GIAC is to promote and support the effective and efficient sharing and use of geographic information and related resources throughout the Commonwealth. Understanding the need for better information, Penfield encourages his staff to participate in all aspects of improving the quality and availability of geographic information.

Bryan Bunch, geographic specialist in the NREPC Office of Information Systems, has worked for years toward replacing an outdated, dual-zone state coordinate formula that has been used for decades in Kentucky. With the support of Ken Bates, NREPC Geographic Information Systems branch manager, Bunch worked to refine, promote and implement the new single-zone coordinate system.

"The purpose of the single-zone projection is to provide the basis for a common reference frame in which to represent geographic information throughout the entire state inclusively rather than split into multiple zones," Bunch said.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**This map shows that adopting a single-reference frame for the entire state eliminates the need to create duplicate datasets for quadrangles lying in both the north and south zones or near their common boundary.** Graphic provided by Bryan Bunch. Click on map to see it enlarged.

While the older, dual-zone coordinate system is still acceptable from a statutory and regulatory perspective, the newer single-zone coordinate system developed by Bunch is being promoted as the system preferred by professionals within state government and the private sector.

Bunch stated that in developing the single-zone coordinates he worked closely with staff in the Governor's Office of Technology, Office of Geographic Information, the National Geodetic Survey the Kentucky National Geodetic Advisor, the Kentucky Geological Survey and various other state cabinets and agencies with keen interests in developing and managing statewide geospatial information.

For a more detailed and technical look at Kentucky's single-zone coordinate system, visit the *Professional Surveyor's* magazine at <http://www.profsurv.com/psarchiv.htm> The Web site includes an article written by Bunch in a two-part series on the subject.

For additional information and links to other sites of interest, be sure to check out the NREPC Geographic Information Systems' Web page at <http://www.nr.state.ky.us/nrepc/ois/gis>

### **Height Modernization**

In a state where the lowest elevation is only 260 feet (Fulton County) and the highest elevation is 4,139 feet (Harlan County), it is apparent how important accurate height measurement can be.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet is participating with GIAC in a Height Modernization project to provide a reliable and accurate infrastructure for elevation data that meets the needs of a broad spectrum of users and applications. To achieve this, the existing vertical control network will be updated and extended. This modernized network of elevation data will enable the development of a more accurate model, providing the ability to derive accurate elevations using Global Positioning System (GPS) observations.

This capability reduces or eliminates the requirement to perform expensive and time-consuming traditional leveling for vertical control. It will also set the stage for the next generation of digital mapping products by using remote sensing techniques rather than ground surveys.

For more information on the project, visit GIAC's Web page [http://ngs.state.ky.us/GIAC\\_HeightMod/](http://ngs.state.ky.us/GIAC_HeightMod/).

For more information, contact [Bryan Bunch, NREPC Office of Information Services](#) by email or phone 502/564-5174. Or see these GIAC Web sites: <http://giac.state.ky.us/committees.htm> or <http://giac.state.ky.us/singlezone.htm>.

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## **KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# New database will make cabinet permitting more consistent and accessible

by Robert Thorne, Department for Environmental Protection

**This article is a general introduction to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's new TEMPO database system. An article will follow in the months to come to bring the public up to date on the positive aspects of TEMPO.**

During July, the Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) will make its first big leap into what will eventually become a department-wide electronic database system. The system is being implemented as part of the EMPOWER Kentucky project. EMPOWER Kentucky is Gov. Paul Patton's initiative to make state government more efficient and effective by streamlining the delivery of services to Kentucky taxpayers.

Numerous DEP employees have been working with American Management Systems Inc. (AMS) over the last year and a half to build a Kentucky version of TEMPO™ (Tools for Environmental Management and Protection Organizations).

TEMPO is a system that will allow complaints, inspections, permit reviews, applications and enforcement actions to be easily tracked and captured in an electronic database.

"TEMPO is going to be a big benefit to our programs and the regulated community," said Kevin Flowers, a Division of Water field office representative now on the DEP EMPOWER team. "The TEMPO software is designed to provide a greater level of consistency across the department."

"Permit reviewers will be able to write their permits from a standard library, and they'll be able to see what other permit reviewers are doing. There will be a learning period, but eventually the system will allow permits to be tracked better, reviewed more consistently and potentially issued faster," said Steve Hagedorn, a former Division for Air Quality permit writer, also on the DEP EMPOWER team.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet initially set out to create a system with similar functionality, but later decided that it was in DEP's best interest to purchase a system that had already been tested and put into use in other states. Mississippi, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico and New Jersey are all using some form of TEMPO, and several other states, including Tennessee, are working to implement TEMPO.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002**



**"TEMPO is going to be a big benefit to our programs and the regulated community. The TEMPO software is designed to provide a greater level of consistency across the department." Kevin Flowers, DEP Empower team**

"TEMPO will allow for the integration of all DEP activities into one database," added Gayleen Mauer, a Division of Waste Management representative on the EMPOWER team.

The regulated community in Kentucky probably will notice only minimal effects initially, but the look of the permits and permit renewals issued by DEP will be different. Facilities that get copies of inspection reports will also notice a change in how the reports look.

Inspectors, permit reviewers, enforcement staff and other employees began training in June to use TEMPO. A group of individuals within DEP have been trained by AMS to train other TEMPO users with a first-phase production use of the system scheduled for mid-July.

Once the first phase of TEMPO is complete, the DEP EMPOWER team will go to work on the second phase, which includes the solid waste, hazardous waste, drinking water and air quality programs with completion by May 2003. A third phase will encompass the rest of the DEP programs not included in the first two releases.

Also to be added in 2003 will be Radius software, which allows permit applications to be submitted electronically. Radius is a version of TEMPO that will be made available to the regulated community via the Internet or disk. TEMPO will interface with an analytical database called COMPASS that will allow DEP to capture all field and laboratory results in a single database.

"By keeping all of the data in COMPASS, DEP will be able to plan for projects more effectively and will be able to make informed decisions based on a comprehensive view of our analytical data," said Kay Harker, project manager for the EMPOWER team.

The EMPOWER team consists of representatives from the four DEP divisions along with consultants and a project manager from the commissioner's office. For more information on EMPOWER visit DEP's Web site <http://www.nr.state.ky.us/nrepc/empower/dep.htm>

### **American Management Systems Inc. (AMS)**

**AMS is an international business and information technology consulting firm, headquartered in Fairfax, Va. Their customers include 43 state and provincial governments, most federal agencies, and hundreds of companies in the Fortune 500. To learn more about AMS, visit their Web site at <http://www.ams.com/>**

**For more information, contact [Kay Harker](#) or [Robert Thorne](#), Department for Environmental Protection by email or phone (502)564-2150.**

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## **KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# VET to come to an end in Jefferson County

by [Lona Brewer, Division for Air Quality](#)

**Photos provided by the Air Pollution Control Board of Jefferson County. Click on them to see them enlarged.**

**In November 2001, the Jefferson County area was redesignated to attainment for the 1-hour ozone standard. This marked a tremendous milestone for Jefferson County.**

For 19 years, the Vehicle Emission Testing (VET) program has monitored vehicle tailpipe emissions for Jefferson County. The test identifies volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contribute to ground-level ozone and smog. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) credits the program with removing more than 28,000 tons of pollution from the air each year. Effective Oct. 31, 2003, all five testing stations in Jefferson County will close their doors.

The 2002 Kentucky General Assembly passed House Bill 618 that requires the Jefferson County Air Pollution Control District Board to eliminate any vehicle emissions testing program operated by the county.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Perry Clark, D-Louisville, originally called for amendments to the testing program. However, a floor amendment called for the elimination of the program altogether. Gov. Patton signed the legislation in April.

This legislation has no impact on the program being operated in the northern Kentucky counties of Boone, Campbell and Kenton. It impacts only the counties that have approval to form a consolidated local government, have been designated as attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and have an air pollution control district board. Jefferson County is the only county in Kentucky that has an air pollution control district board.

Vehicle testing programs are required for some areas by the federal Clean Air Act and have been since the early 1980s. The VET program in Jefferson County was first implemented in 1984 as a project designed to maintain the carbon monoxide (CO) standard and as a control program for VOC emissions. Later, under the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, areas that were designated as "moderate" nonattainment for the 1-hour ozone standard had to have in place or implement a vehicle testing program. The 1-hour ozone standard is set by the EPA and is one of several National Ambient Air Quality Standards set to protect public health and the environment. The VET program in Jefferson County met those federal requirements.

In November 2001, the Jefferson County area was redesignated to attainment for the 1-hour ozone standard. This marked a tremendous milestone for Jefferson County. The area had been in violation of the national 1-hour ozone standard since monitoring began. The designation to attainment proved that the implementation of emission control programs, both on a local and national level, can be successful in improving air quality.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**A vehicle is undergoing a pressure check of the vapor recovery system.**

The 1990 Clean Air Act does not mandate that a VET program remain in place once an area has been redesignated to attainment. However, there are two additional issues that have to be addressed when the program is eliminated. The first is "maintenance" of the emission levels that were in place when the area was designated attainment. Jefferson County and the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet (NREPC) will have to demonstrate to the EPA that they can achieve the same emission reductions necessary to keep levels of VOCs, CO and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) in line with the limits included in the Kentucky State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP is Kentucky's strategy on how the state will attain and maintain national ambient air quality standards. If that demonstration cannot be made, other emission reductions will have to be implemented in the area.

The second issue is the federal Transportation Conformity requirements found in both the Clean Air Act and federal transportation legislation. The attainment/maintenance demonstration submitted to the EPA, and included in Kentucky's SIP, contains mobile emission budgets. These budgets limit the amount of motor vehicle pollutants that are anticipated to occur. Any future transportation plans for the area must show that anticipated emissions are at or below the level approved in the SIP. If compliance with the conformity requirements cannot be made, the transportation plan cannot be funded using federal highway money. Once that determination has been made only projects basically related to transit improvements and safety can go forward using federal highway money.

Based on Kentucky Transportation Cabinet information, the Louisville area (including portions of Bullitt and Oldham counties) may lose the ability to spend more than \$1.7 billion in federal highway funds over the next six years if compliance cannot be shown without the anticipated reductions associated with the VET program. Losses for Indiana were predicted for a longer time frame, but are estimated at approximately \$500 million. When compliance can once again be shown, federal highway funds may again be used and the funding restriction is lifted.

The NREPC, the Air Pollution Control District of Jefferson County, the Transportation Cabinet, and the local planning agency, Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency, continue to work together to determine what the impacts may be.

To add further uncertainty to the region, the courts have upheld the EPA's setting of a new, more stringent ozone standard. The new standard, originally set in 1997, is an 8-hour standard and set at .08 parts per million.

Based on the latest three years of monitoring data, air quality in the Louisville area does not meet the more stringent standard, although official designations and requirements for corrective action will not take place until approximately 2004.



**The Bowman Field testing center on Cannons Lane will be closed effective Oct. 31, 2003.**

For more information, contact [Lona Brewer, Division for Air Quality](#), or see the [DAQ Web site](#).

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## **KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Representative is there for small businesses

Do you know your Air Quality Representative for Small Business? Rose Marie Wilmoth is available to answer any questions or concerns you might have about the state's air quality program or the Kentucky Business Environmental Assistance Program (KBEAP). KBEAP provides technical assistance free of charge to small businesses to help them comply with air quality regulations.

This service is provided as part of a program mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA) to help Kentucky small businesses, with 100 employees or less, comply with the provisions of the 1990 CAA Amendments.

Wilmoth is located at the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's Department for Environmental Protection in Frankfort. She is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to answer your questions or concerns about Kentucky's air quality program or KBEAP.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**Rose Marie Wilmoth, air quality representative.**  
Click on photo to see it enlarged.

Call Wilmoth at (502) 564-2150 or (800) 926-8111 or send an e-mail to [RoseMarie.Wilmoth@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:RoseMarie.Wilmoth@mail.state.ky.us)

Additional information on other services to help Kentucky small businesses is available on the cabinet's Web site at <http://www.nr.state.ky>.

[us/nrepc/dep/smbizair/index.htm](http://us/nrepc/dep/smbizair/index.htm)



### Air Quality Compliance--A Helping Hand

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## **KY**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Opportunity to recognize air quality stewardship

by **Rose Marie Wilmoth, Air Quality Representative**

Do you know a small business that works hard to protect the environment against harmful effects of air pollution? Now's your chance to nominate them for a stewardship award.

The Air Quality Small Business Panel is accepting nominations for its 2002 Small Business Air Quality Stewardship Awards. In the four years the panel has offered this award, twelve small businesses have been recognized for their air quality stewardship practices.

### Why are the awards given?

The awards recognize small businesses that have shown a commitment to reduce their operations' impact on air quality.

The annual awards acknowledge exemplary performance in one or more of the following areas: pollution prevention, reducing emissions, emission control and/or community air quality leadership.

### Who may nominate?

Individuals, businesses and organizations may nominate themselves or others for this award. A committee of advisory panel members will evaluate the nominations and select a winner(s).

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**





**Jack Barnes, owner of Vic-Tone One-Hour Dry Cleaners in Bardstown, received a stewardship award during 2001 for his leadership in educating the dry cleaning industry about the Superfund program. Barnes was photographed with Rose Marie Wilmoth, air quality representative, following the awards presentation.**

Photo by Rose Marie Wilmoth. Click on photo to see it enlarged.

### How do I obtain nomination forms?

Write to Bobbie Malmer, Commissioner's Office, Department for Environmental Protection, 14 Reilly Road, Frankfort, KY 40601 or call (502) 564-2150. Nomination forms may be printed or completed online at <http://www.nr.state.ky.us/nrepc/dep/smbizair/award.htm>. Forms should be received in the Commissioner's Office no later than July 31, 2002.

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## **KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Waste oil furnace installed at two Transportation Cabinet locations

by **Bernard H. Engelman, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**

Photos also provided by Mr. Engelman. Click on them to see them enlarged.

December 2000 was the coldest December on record and resulted in a soaring demand for heating fuels and an ensuing escalation of costs. This captured the attention of the Kentucky Division of Energy and facility managers throughout state government, whose operational budgets were deeply depleted. A meeting was held in February 2001 by the Finance and Administration Cabinet and the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet to review the "Energy Efficiency Program for State Government Buildings" and to identify and discuss opportunities that would help managers reduce utility costs.

The Transportation Cabinet's Division of Property and Supply Services left the meeting with a resolve to seek energy conservation opportunities in its facilities. One major opportunity was identified in the potential of burning used motor oil generated in the facilities as a heating fuel to offset the consumption of natural gas. More importantly, the division recognized the beneficial relationship of such an action to Kentucky's environment, while eliminating the liability and disposal cost.



**The T-1 garage, located at 514 Barrett Avenue in Frankfort, is one of two Transportation Cabinet buildings using waste oil to heat their facilities.**

As the division reviewed its facilities for potential candidates to initiate a pilot project, it identified two locations that were well suited to this purpose. The T-1 Garage in Frankfort was ideal because of its proximity, and it also produces a large volume of used motor oil. The garage repairs and maintains approximately 1,600 state vehicles and generates approximately 5,000 gallons of used motor oil per year.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**The waste oil furnace hangs from the ceiling of the T-1 garage in Frankfort.**

The 32nd Street Garage in Paducah also had potential. The Transportation Cabinet had established a recycling center at this location, which included the collection of used motor oil throughout the district. A large volume of used motor oil was critical to making this program a success. Therefore, the Frankfort and Paducah facilities were selected to test the performance and reliability of the waste oil furnaces and to measure the actual savings in energy. The division decided to install one, 280,000- BTU/hour unit to supplement the existing natural-gas heaters in both of the facilities.

The UL-listed and EPA-approved heating units were purchased through a government contract from Clean Burn Co., in Leola, Pa. The company also offered installation, technical support and an elective maintenance service. Data and calculations projected a simple payback period of approximately two years.

During the next few years, the division will track and compare consumption and heating-degree-day data against historic baseline data. It also plans to expand the program to two other cabinet equipment repair garages. The district equipment repair garages are responsible for maintenance and repair of large trucks and heavy equipment within the respective district, and have an adequate supply of used oil. The equipment repair garage in Somerset and another in Manchester are scheduled for waste oil furnace installations later this summer.

Using waste oil for fuel is a recent phenomenon. Until recently, there were many technical problems associated with burning waste oil. However, improvements in technology and the parallel increase in the cost of waste oil disposal and the cost of energy, have forced a re-evaluation of alternatives. Waste oil has become a valuable source of energy, and the modern waste oil furnace has become a clean, efficient means of disposal by converting this by-product to a heating fuel.

There are many businesses in Kentucky that use waste oil as a heating fuel. Locally, Howard's Body Shop in Frankfort and R-M Truck Repair in Versailles report significant savings through the use of waste oil heating units.



**The waste oil tank is a rectangular pit in the floor of the garage. Waste oil is collected from mechanic stations and brought to the facility in barrels. The oil is later dumped into the tank.**

To observe the Transportation Cabinet's installations or to review the data that has been assembled, please contact [Bernard.Engelman@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:Bernard.Engelman@mail.state.ky.us) in the Transportation Cabinet's Division of Property and Supply Services or [Alan.Shikoh@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:Alan.Shikoh@mail.state.ky.us) in the Natural Resources and Environment Protection Cabinet's Division of Energy.

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**KY** Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

## Three's company -- Grant County becomes Kentucky's third certified clean county

by **Kerry Holt**, Office of the Secretary

Take a drive through Grant County and you'll notice new signs have popped up along the side of the road. The green and white signs contain four simple words "A Certified Clean County," but those words also symbolize a year's worth of work. Grant joins Washington and Menifee counties on a short list of areas that have completed the governor's Certified Clean County Program.

To be certified, counties must have mandatory garbage collection. In return, the state pays for 75 percent of the cost to rid the county of illegal dumps. To qualify as a clean county, participants must clean up all illegal dumps, monitor the sites and employ a solid waste coordinator.

Grant County received a \$103,000 state grant to clean up its 76 illegal dumps. The county contributed \$36,000 to the cleanup efforts. The county disposed of more than 1,600 tons of solid waste and recycled almost 28 tons of materials.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**Grant County Solid Waste Coordinator Bryan Miles stands proudly beside the sign designating Grant a certified clean county.**

Photo by Kerry Holt. Click on photo to see it enlarged.

When asked if he'd do it all over again, Grant County Solid Waste Coordinator Bryan Miles replied with an overwhelming yes. "You can't afford not to participate in the program. Although it required a lot work, no one should pass up an opportunity like this," he explained.

Miles also wanted to express sincere thanks to the Division of Waste Management and inspectors from the Florence field office. "These folks made herculean efforts for Grant County and I can't thank them enough for their dedication. We'd still be cleaning up dumps if it weren't for them," he said.

For more information, contact [Cathy Guess, Division of Waste Management](#) by email or phone (502)564-6716. Or see the division's Web site at <http://www.nr.state.ky.us/nrepc/dep/waste/programs/rcla/rclahome.htm>.

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**KY**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

## Rake in come cash while piling up trash: Commonwealth Cleanup prizes awarded



By **Kerry Holt**, Office of the Secretary

**Photos submitted. Click on them to see them enlarged.**

We all know money doesn't grow on trees, but did you realize you could earn some easy cash by picking up trash? Three Kentucky nonprofit groups learned just that after participating in this year's Commonwealth Cleanup Week.

Any nonprofit group or charitable organization that conducted an assigned cleanup project during the week of March 23-30, were eligible to enter a random cash prize drawing. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet (NREPC) began awarding prizes in 2000 to thank citizens for their hard work and commitment to keeping Kentucky beautiful.

Before groups could enter the drawing, the county solid waste coordinator had to sign off on the project and verify that the work was indeed completed. Volunteers were encouraged to send in photos of their cleanup, as well as chart the amount of hours spent and the number of trash bags, tires or appliances collected. A variety of organizations participated in Commonwealth Cleanup Week, ranging from senior citizens' groups to soccer leagues.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**





**Mason County's Cub Scout Pack #201 collected 25 bags of trash, 4 waste tires, a bed and mattress and other miscellaneous items.**

Winners of this year's prize drawings are:

- \$500 -- Share the Hope, Calloway County, Phillip Lynn Rogers, organizer.
- \$250 -- Glasgow Garden Club, Barren County, Mary Ann Simmons, organizer.
- \$100 -- Triple L 4-H Club, Monroe County, Ellen Hedrick, organizer.

Mark York, principal assistant to NREPC Secretary James Bickford, presented the lucky winners with their checks. Organizers said they were grateful for the acknowledgement, and *Share the Hope* coordinator Phillip Lynn Rogers said the prize money couldn't have come at a better time. "This check will go straight back into our relief efforts. With donations down this year, we'll make sure this goes to good use to aiding food and clothing drives for the people of Appalachia."

Rogers also said he was excited to participate in Commonwealth Cleanup Week and would encourage others to get in on the "good, clean fun."



**Volunteers raked leaves, picked up trash and trimmed shrubs at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Slavery to Freedom Museum and other historic locations.**



**The Glasgow Garden Club picked up trash along Siloam Road in Barren County.**

For more information on Commonwealth Cleanup Week, contact [Kerry Holt](#) by email or phone (502)564-5525, or see the [Commonwealth Cleanup Week Web site](#).

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**KY**Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

## Volunteers take "snapshot" of stream quality

by Ken Cooke, Division of Water

Photos by Ken Cooke. Click on them to see them enlarged.

### Teams collect samples for herbicides at more than 450 sites across Kentucky

When you drive through the Kentucky countryside on a summer day, you often pass acres of tall, healthy corn, soybeans, tobacco and wheat. Planted in neat rows, these crops provide a picture of productivity with promise of a bountiful harvest. Many of these scenes are made possible through use of the most modern production methods and agricultural chemicals, including herbicides.

Kentucky Watershed Watch, a statewide volunteer organization, has been studying the impact of herbicides on our waterways. They have organized sampling events for the most common compounds to get a statewide "snapshot" designed to show if herbicides are entering our waterways and, if so, to what extent.

Funding for the analysis comes from the Virginia Environmental Endowment and PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) with technical support from the Kentucky Water Watch program.

Since 1997, local watershed groups have been taking samples during the spring planting season to see what might be in our streams. Sampling is coordinated on a regional basis by eight different, independent volunteer steering committees.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**



**Dr. Ouida Mier and her daughter  
collect samples on Salt Lick Creek  
in Warren County.**

This year Watershed Watch volunteers visited more than 450 sites across Kentucky within a two-week period. They took with them special sampling containers for the herbicides and field-testing equipment to measure water- quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity and temperature. Prior to their participation, volunteers completed a day-long training workshop covering sample collection methods and running field tests.

Once samples were collected, they were preserved immediately on ice. The ice slows down the biological and chemical processes that could degrade the herbicides over time. A group of "sample runners" traveled from community to community, picking up the bottles from the volunteer samplers. These were then transported to the Kentucky Geological Survey labs at the University of Kentucky for processing.

Kentucky Geological Survey technicians analyzed the samples for *atrazine*, a corn herbicide, *metolachlor*, a soybean herbicide and *2,4-D*, a herbicide used for right-of-way and turf maintenance. They used U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved methods accurate down to 0.06 parts per billion.

## What did they find?

Simply put, in areas with intensive agriculture, they found significant amounts of these herbicides in the samples. The data from this collection effort is being used to raise awareness about conditions in our streams. Organizations such as the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Program, Kentucky Division of Water's Groundwater Branch and other parties frequently request the data for screening and background information. It has also been used to seek funding for best management practices for agriculture operations.

Herbicides found in the stream represent money washing away, and no one wants that.



**Clean rows of corn  
at a Daviess County farm.**

The project will be sampling streams and rivers again in July. The next round of testing will be for fecal coliform. If you would like to participate in this kind of sampling, visit the project's Web site at <http://kywater.org/join.htm>

For more information on this herbicide monitoring project as well as the data collected, visit <http://kywater.org/watch/herb/>

For more information on herbicides in Kentucky waters, visit <http://water.nr.state.ky.us/wq/pesticide.pdf>

For additional information, contact [Ken Cooke, Division of Water](#) by email or phone (502)564-3410.

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KYNatural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet

# Consumers now get reports about their drinking water

by **Martha Hall, Division of Water**

Turn on the faucet for a glass of water, wash vegetables for dinner under tap water, take a bath or shower -- most of us take running water for granted. It's dependable and we assume that it is safe.

What do you really know about the water that comes out of the tap in your home?

If you rely on a water system to deliver water to your home through a system of pipes, as 3,512,049 people in Kentucky do, do you know where it comes from? Do you know what's in it? As long as it's clear, do you assume it's safe?

All water systems are now required to prepare and distribute an annual report to answer these and other questions about the quality of water that they provide to their customers. The first reports were due in October 1999, and they have been due by July 1 each year since.

This annual report can be called a Water Quality Report, a Consumer Confidence Report or something similar. It is meant to provide customers with a snapshot of their drinking water supply.

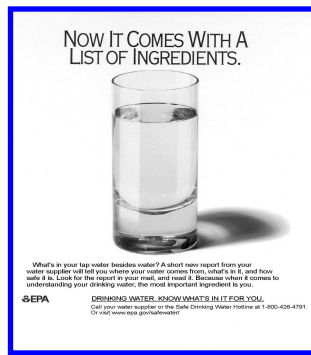
Each report must provide consumers with the following fundamental information about their drinking water:

- The lake, river, aquifer or other source of the water.
- A brief summary of how vulnerable the source is to contamination.
- How to get a copy of the water system's complete source water assessment.
- A list of contaminants regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the health-based standard (maximum contaminant level) for that contaminant and the amount of the contaminant detected in the system's drinking water.
- The potential health effects of any contaminant detected in violation of an EPA health standard and an accounting of the system's actions to restore safe drinking water.
- The water system's compliance with other drinking water-related rules.

**Land  
Air & Water** magazine

**Summer 2002  
Vol. 13, No. 3**





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- An educational statement for those especially vulnerable about how to avoid *Cryptosporidium*, which is a microbial parasite that causes flu and diarrhea-like systems.
- Educational information on nitrate, arsenic or lead in areas where these contaminants are detected above 50 percent of the EPA's standard.
- Phone numbers of additional sources of information, including the water system and the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

You may have seen your water system's report as an insert in your water bill, or you may have seen it published in your local newspaper. Some reports may also be on the Internet. The distribution method depends on the size of the water systems. Systems that serve more than 10,000 customers must mail or directly deliver the reports, systems that serve between 500 to 10,000 customers may publish the report in a local newspaper, and small systems may notify customers that the report is available. In addition, systems serving 100,000 or more customers must also post their report on the Internet.

The EPA will work with the states to make reports of systems serving 10,000 or more customers available on the Internet within the next few years. Meanwhile, see more about Consumer Confidence Reports at this Web site: <http://water.nr.state.ky.us/dw/ccr.htm>. This site will provide links to reports of the Louisville Water Company, the Kentucky-American Water Company and the Northern Kentucky Water District, plus links to the EPA's fact sheet and other information about the Consumer Confidence Report Rule and much more about drinking water.

Take time to look over the report from your water system. If you didn't get a report or missed seeing it in the newspaper, call your water system for a copy. You'll be surprised at what there is to learn about your water.

For more information, contact [Martha Hall, Division of Water](#) by email or phone (502)564-3410. Or see the [U.S. EPA Web site](#).

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